

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

→ Spring 2015 Assessments

M-STEP

Can students travel from one room to another with their test tickets? (12.12.14)

No. Test tickets are considered secure materials and must be collected by the test proctor before the student leaves the room, maintained in secured chain of custody, and re-distributed to the student when testing resumes.

The Spring 2015 Assessment Transition document says that the test will include “Smarter Balanced content and Michigan developed field-test items.” Can I use the Smarter Balanced items posted online with my students? (11.20.14)

The Smarter Balanced Practice Test items posted online are similar in content to M-STEP items, and may prove helpful in the classroom as students practice test items aligned to Michigan’s content standards in ELA and Mathematics. Because Michigan is using a different online delivery engine than the Smarter Balanced Practice Test, OSA is developing the following resources to help prepare your students for the Spring 2015 assessments:

- Spring 2015 Preview—sample items to provide students and teachers exposure to item types, online tools, and the functionality of Michigan’s online delivery engine—available in early December.
- Spring 2015 Grade Level Sample Items—features grade-specific ELA and Mathematics content, item types, online tools, and the functionality of Michigan’s online delivery engine— available January 2015.

Must each content area be given in a certain order? (12.12.14)

For paper/pencil testing, subjects must be administered on dates specified in the paper/pencil testing schedule:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spring_2015_Testing_Schedule_Update_464310_7.pdf. The Classroom Activity must be completed prior to administration of the Performance Task.

English Language Arts

- Day 1 ELA paper/pencil test will include parts 1 and 2 (fixed-form plus a listening part).
- Day 2 ELA paper/pencil test will be the Performance Task.
- The 30-minute ELA Classroom Activity for paper/pencil may be administered the Monday before testing, on Day 1 (before or after testing), or on Day 2 (before the Performance Task).

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

Mathematics

- Day 1 mathematics paper/pencil test will include one part (fixed-form).
- Day 2 mathematics paper/pencil test will include the 30-minute Classroom Activity and the Performance Task.
- For more information, please see the [M-STEP Spring 2015 Michigan Assessment Transition – November 2014](#) document.
- For online testing, not all students have to be administered the same assessment at the same time, nor on the same day. Schools have the flexibility to determine which students will be administered which subject, on which day. This flexibility extends across the entire test window for that grade level.

What standards are our students being assessed on in Spring 2015? (9.29.14)

General Assessments:

Michigan's education standards in English language arts and mathematics were adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in June 2010. Michigan's standards in social studies and science were adopted by the SBE in 2007.

Lesson plans and curriculum are developed locally by educators, building and district experts, and staff.

Michigan's academic standards serve to outline learning expectations for Michigan's students and are intended to guide local curriculum development. They should be used as a framework by schools for curriculum development with the curriculum itself prescribing instructional resources, methods, progressions, and additional knowledge valued by the local community.

These content standards provide a platform for state assessments, which are used to measure how well schools are providing opportunities for all students to learn the content outlined by the standards.

Information on Michigan standards for all content areas are located on the Michigan Department of Education website at <http://www.michigan.gov/academicstandards>.

Alternate Assessments:

The MI-Access assessments will be available in the spring of 2015 for students whose Individual Education Program (IEP) Team has determined that it is not appropriate for them to participate in the state's general education assessment. These assessments will continue to be based on Michigan's extended content standards.

Michigan's extended content standards for students participating in one of Michigan's alternate assessments are located at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_28463---.00.html.

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

Is the state able to handle the entire state testing around the same time? (10.6.14)

Yes, Michigan has taken appropriate measures to assure a successful administration.

Will there be a writing assessment in Spring 2015? (10.6.14)

Michigan is moving to an English language arts (ELA) assessment that measures our current standards. This assessment will include reading and writing at all grades (3-8 and 11). There will be a variety of item types including multiple-choice items, constructed-response items of varying lengths, and technology-enhanced items.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM

Do foreign exchange students need to take the Michigan Merit Exam?

Yes, if a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 11th grade. All grade 11 students will be expected to test and count in accountability calculations. If a school enrolls a foreign exchange student in 12th grade, that student is NOT expected to test.

What students are *required* to take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and are included in accountability calculations? (12.4.14)

All grade 11 students are required to take the **complete** Michigan Merit Exam (ACT Plus Writing; WorkKeys; and the M-STEP ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies tests) **except** for those students previously included in Grade 11 accountability calculations.

Grade 12 students **who have not previously been included in Michigan's accountability calculations** are also required to take the **complete** Michigan Merit Exam.

Please see

http://www.mi.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_HS_Grade_Assignment_for_Accountability_346186_7.pdf?20141202151018 for frequently asked questions regarding this policy.

What students are *eligible* to take/retake the complete Michigan Merit Exam, even if they are not included in accountability calculations? (12.4.14)

Grade 11 students who do not have valid scores in all content areas (ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies) are eligible to retest.

Grade 11 students who previously took the complete MME and have valid scores in all content areas are **NOT** eligible to retake the MME.

Grade 12 students who have never taken the MME, or who do not have valid scores in all content areas (ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies) are eligible to take/retake the complete MME.

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

I am a nonpublic school and want to administer the 11th grade test. Can I just do ACT? (10.13.14)

Nonpublic schools still have the option to opt into Michigan's 11th grade assessment. This assessment still includes three portions: The ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys, and a Michigan summative component. Nonpublic schools that opt to participate in the 11th grade assessment will be included in data files reporting the results of all three portions of the assessment as they have in the past.

➔ Interim Assessments

Will there be a K-2 Pilot in the spring? (10.6.14)

The K-2 assessment is currently part of the interim assessment system and will not be required. We will not be piloting any interim assessments this spring.

➔ Technology and Online Testing

Is a pause available for online testing? (12.12.14)

Yes, there is a 20 minute timed pause. If more than 20 minutes elapses, the system will require students to login before resuming testing. The session must be completed on the day it was begun.

In the Assessment Transition Guide for M-STEP, the online Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) is listed first in the testing sequence. Is it possible to administer the CAT after the Performance Task, or does it have to be given first in the testing sequence, prior to the Classroom Activity? (12.4.14)

For the Online Administration of M-STEP, DAS recommends following the testing sequence as provided on page 5 of the *Spring 2015 Michigan Statewide Assessment Transition* document (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Assessment_Transition_FINAL_11-13-14_473989_7.pdf), which lists the CAT as being first in the testing sequence. However, in order to allow for scheduling flexibility, schools may administer the CAT AFTER the Performance Task. This alternate sequence would require the Classroom Activity be administered first in the sequence as the Classroom Activity must be administered before the Performance Task.

For Paper/Pencil Administration of M-STEP ELA and Mathematics, schools must follow the testing sequence as provided on page 8 of the *Spring 2015 Michigan Statewide Assessment Transition* document (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Assessment_Transition_FINAL_11-13-14_473989_7.pdf) for Days 1 and 2 of each assessment.

Please be aware that the Classroom Activity **MUST** be administered **BEFORE** the Performance Task for both Online and Paper/Pencil. Any deviation from this sequence, or administering the Performance Task without the Classroom Activity, will be considered a testing irregularity and must be reported as such. If I requested an Online Waiver for one or more schools in my district, and have since determined that some or all of those buildings are ready to test online, can I withdraw the waiver request?

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

The online waiver request window is open until November 7, 2014. If you determine by that date that you would like to withdraw your waiver request for one or more schools, please send an email request to baa@michigan.gov with the subject line Withdraw Waiver Request, providing the district and school information, as well as your contact information. If you have additional questions regarding submission or withdrawal of the online waiver, please call 877-560-8378, and select option 8.

Is there a suggested limit on the number of concurrent testers per TSM for online testing in spring 2015? (12.4.14)

For planning purposes, our online delivery vendor recommends a maximum of 150 concurrent testing devices per local caching server (known as the TSM or Testing Site Manager) to maximize the student testing experience. A school can have more than one TSM. Conversely, one TSM can serve multiple schools. Additional information on the TSM will be available in the Technology Coordinator Manual.

Are microphones required for the Spring 2015 M-STEP assessment? (12.4.14)

No, microphones are not required for the Spring 2015 M-STEP assessment.

Will keyboarding be required for the 3rd grade English language arts assessment (ELA)? (10.6.14)

While keyboarding will be part of ELA assessments for all grades 3 and up, we are aware of the concerns around our younger students and keyboarding. With the technology of online assessment there are additional ways to measure writing skills using technology-enhanced items that can reduce the keyboarding burden for our younger students.

Which testing device do you recommend for administering the spring 2015 assessments? (10.13.14)

Desktops, laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks can be used for the spring 2015 summative assessments, so long as these devices meet the minimum testing device requirements found at: http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf.

MDE does not recommend one particular type of device over another, but strongly suggests that the devices being used for testing are familiar to both students and staff prior to testing.

→ Students With Disabilities (SWD)

How will the state summative assessment that a student with disabilities takes impact their certificate of completion or diploma? (10.13.14)

Michigan does not place a performance level achievement requirement for state summative assessments on graduation or certificate of completion. Please remember that any guidelines governing certificate of completion are determined at the local level only. Please check local (district) policy regarding any such requirements.

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

➔ Alternate Assessments

I have a student with a disability that requires a paper/pencil format of the M-STEP, and a student with a disability that requires a paper/pencil format of MI-Access Functional Independence. However, we are planning to assess all other students online. How do we go about ordering these paper/pencil formats for individual students before the waiver deadline? (11.20.14)

Ordering paper/pencil formats for individual students does not require a waiver and does not need to be completed before November 21, 2014. Ordering paper/pencil materials for individual students will take place during the M-STEP and MI-Access Pre-ID and initial materials order window in January 2015.

If I requested an Online Waiver for one or more schools in my district, and have since determined that some or all of those buildings are ready to test online, can I withdraw the waiver request? (11.7.14 & 10.20.14)

The online waiver request window is open until November 21, 2014. If you determine by that date that you would like to withdraw your waiver request for one or more schools, please send an email request to baa@michigan.gov with the subject line Withdraw Waiver Request, providing the district and school information, as well as your contact information.

If you have additional questions regarding submission or withdrawal of the online waiver, please call 877-560-8378, and select option 8.

I thought we were using Dynamic Learning Maps this year. If we are using MI-Access, what standards is the assessment based upon? (10.6.14)

MI-Access measures Michigan's current alternate content standards (Extended Grade Level Content Expectations, Extended High School Content Expectations and Extended Benchmarks). A copy of the memo regarding the delay in using DLM can be found at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/DLM_Delay_470230_7.pdf

➔ Paper/Pencil Option

If a student with a disability needs a paper/pencil version of the assessment, does this requirement need to be listed in the IEP? (10.13.14)

Individual students requiring a paper/pencil version do not need to have it explicitly stated in the IEP. However, keep in mind that the reason for designating the student as needing a paper/ pencil version should link back to a specified need as indicated in the IEP (based on his or her disability), or for those students for whom an online assessment creates an accessibility issue.

Student Assessment and Accountability Recently Asked Questions

I am a nonpublic school and plan on testing in spring 2015, do I have to submit an online waiver? (10.13.14)

Yes, any nonpublic school that wishes to participate in the spring 2015 assessments and is not ready for online testing must submit an online waiver request. Guidance on how to submit online waiver request(s) for the administration of the assessments via paper/pencil at your school can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Online testing device requirements can be found at [http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan Testing Device Requirements9-15-14.pdf](http://mtrax.org/files/Michigan_Testing_Device_Requirements9-15-14.pdf).

Who received the information about the paper/pencil waiver request? (10.6.14)

The memorandum regarding the waiver request was sent to District Superintendents, Public School Academy Directors, School Principals, and all DAS list serves. The informational memo and the Michigan Summative Assessment Request for Paper-Pencil Administration Process and Procedures document can be accessed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Paper_Pencil_Request_470321_7.pdf.

Will my students get better scores if we stick with paper-pencil? (9.29.14)

While there is a common misperception that paper and pencil assessments are easier, in fact, these assessments now include additional elements beyond multiple choice and are similar to the online tests.ⁱ

Will the paper-pencil forms for math and English language arts be similar to what we've seen in the past? (9.29.14)

No. As we are moving to a new math and ELA assessment the paper-pencil forms will have a different look and feel than in past years. Students will be transitioning regardless if assessments are administered online or paper-pencil.

ⁱ Clarification added